

REMARKS:

Independent claims 1, 9 and 17 are amended herein. Said amendments are deemed to be merely clarifying.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ying et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0079977) in view of Applicant's admitted prior art (hereafter referred to as "APA"). The Examiner rejected claims 7 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ying et al. in view of APA and further in view of Janesick (U.S. Patent No. 6,909,126). The Examiner rejected claims 6, 14, 17, 18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ying et al. in view of APA and further in view of Zhao et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,727,946). The Examiner rejected claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ying et al. in view of APA and Zhao et al. and further in view of Janesick. These rejections are respectfully disagreed with and are traversed below.

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

On March 20, 2008, the undersigned agent conducted a brief, informal telephone conversation with the Examiner. At that time, the Examiner indicated that he was looking for additional detail in the claims concerning the CTIA and/or SFD circuits. The Examiner further indicated that such additional description would be sufficient to overcome the outstanding §103(a) rejection. The Examiner further indicated that he considered Ying et al. (see, e.g., FIG. 4) to disclose elements connected in series. The Examiner also stated that, with respect to the pending application, he considered the feedback capacitor C_{fb2} and transistor M1 or M2 to be in parallel (see FIG. 2).

RESPONSE TO SAID TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

In response to the telephone conversation, independent claims 1, 9 and 17 are amended to clarify the nature of the CTIA circuit by stating "wherein across said CTIA input circuit at least one capacitance is in parallel with at least one transistor." Said clarifying amendments are made without agreeing with the Examiner's interpretation of Ying et al.

That is, the Applicants disagree with the Examiner's interpretation of Ying et al. and the arguments presented in the Response to Final Office Action filed on February 1, 2008 are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety. It is maintained that Ying et al. in combination with the APA do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited by claim 1, for example.

Notwithstanding the above disagreement, and based on the above-mentioned informal telephone conversation, the clarifying amendments to independent claims 1, 9 and 17 are presented in order to advance prosecution and attain allowance of the claims. It is believed that the presented claim amendments are not needed in order to overcome the cited prior art.

It is respectfully submitted that the features recited in claim 1 are not disclosed or suggested in the cited art. Ying et al. in view of the APA does not render claim 1 obvious. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable and should be allowed.

Though dependent claims 3-8 contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due to their dependence from allowable claim 1.

Independent claims 9 and 17 claim similar features as claim 1, including "A method to operate a readout circuit unit cell with a radiation detector... where said first amplifier circuit is comprised of a Charge Transimpedance Amplifier (CTIA) input circuit, and where said second amplifier circuit is comprised of a Source Follower per Detector (SFD) input circuit" (claim 9) and "A readout circuit unit cell for use with an infrared (IR) radiation detector... to form, in a first mode of operation below an illumination level threshold, a CTIA input circuit, and to form, in a second

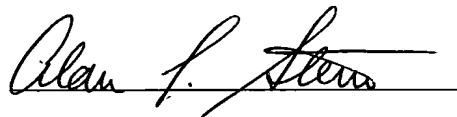
mode of operation above the illumination level threshold, a lower gain SFD input circuit" (claim 17). For the same reasons stated above with respect to claim 1, independent claims 9 and 17 are not rendered obvious by Ying et al. in view of the APA. Therefore, claims 9 and 17 are patentable and should be allowed.

Though dependent claims 11-16 and 18-20 contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due to their dependence from allowable claims 9 and 17, respectively.

CONCLUSION

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and remove the rejections of claims 1, 3-9 and 11-20 and to allow all of the pending claims as now presented for examination. For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record. Should any unresolved issue remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' agent at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted:


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence, a Request for Continued Examination, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:
Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

J. Droniak
Name of Person Making Deposit

April 29, 2008
Date